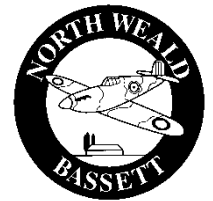


We're ready - Are you ?



Creating a Neighbourhood Plan needs Community backing and support. Our residents need to understand what it is, what it can do, and what it can't. You....as a Community....have an opportunity to help shape the future of how the Parish grows. Your Parish Council is ready to help you create your Plan. But we can't do it without your help.

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

What does it do? What can't it do? What happens Next?

For some time now, the Parish Council has been discussing whether or not to progress a Neighbourhood Plan. In fact you may recall that in the March 2015 edition of Village Life the Parish Council placed a notice regarding precepting for the cost to produce one. We thought it may be helpful to detail what's happening in terms of Planning for the Parish (and also the District), what we can expect in the future, together with updating you on some of the projects that you may have heard about such as:



North Weald Master Plan



There are different levels of Planning:

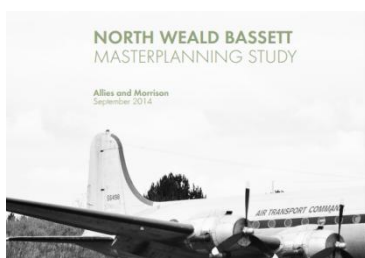
- 1. The Government** has identified that there is a shortage of houses for what is a growing population, and has therefore created a planning policy which supports growth. This is the golden thread running through the entire planning system.
- 2. Epping Forest District Council (EFDC)** is the Local Planning Authority, meaning it are responsible for setting out the plans and policies that will guide development and growth in the whole of Epping Forest district for our future. This is called a **LOCAL PLAN**. You may recall the following consultation completed by Epping Forest District:



Completed July 2012 - 165 pages long - This was the first opportunity for residents to inform EFDC whether or not they had identified all the significant issues for the future planning of the district, and to give them your views on the options they had included.

[http://rds.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Published/C00000688/M00007137/AI00036183/\\$IssuesOptionsConsultnAppl.doc.pdf](http://rds.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Published/C00000688/M00007137/AI00036183/$IssuesOptionsConsultnAppl.doc.pdf)

The process to create a **LOCAL PLAN** is involved and complex, and a wide range of studies, reports, surveys and analysis takes place. Part of the process was for EFDC to consider how it maximises the potential, and makes the best use of, land it owns. This included North Weald Airfield, and following a report completed by consultants, EFDC agreed that the future of the Airfield should be 'mixed use', i.e. Housing and Aviation. EFDC then completed a further study entitled the 'North Weald Bassett Masterplanning Study':



Completed September 2014 - 158 pages long - purpose was to identify a vision for the settlement and to provide a clear framework for future development and investment. Covered issues such as transport, new homes, economic opportunities, shops, community services and open spaces.

<http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/home/file-store/category/430-north-weald-masterplanning-study-2014>

In 2016, EFDC is expected to complete a further public consultation. This could be entitled the 'Preferred Options' or the 'Draft Local Plan'. Amongst other issues, this document will include suggested strategic development sites - i.e.

sites where development is deemed to be a viable option. This will be where you have a further opportunity to have a say over the future development in the District, and within the Parish of North Weald, including the Airfield.

3. North Weald Bassett Parish Council (NWBPC) isn't a planning authority, however recent changes in the law has given the Parish Council (and as such local people) the power to create a **Neighbourhood Plan**. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. **IMPORTANT:** This is **NOT** a tool to stop development, but a tool which allows you to choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have your say on what those new buildings should look like, what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings you want to see go ahead. It also allows people to have greater input and **CONTROL** over elements of any new development. A Neighbourhood Plan can include:

- ✓ The development of housing, including affordable housing - i.e. housing that is not normally for sale on the open market, and bringing vacant or derelict housing back into use.
- ✓ Provision for businesses to set up or expand their premises.
- ✓ Transport and access (including issues around roads, cycling, walking and access for disabled people).
- ✓ The development of schools, places of worship, health facilities, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres and village halls.
- ✓ The restriction of certain types of development and change of use, for example to avoid too much of one type of use.
- ✓ The design of buildings.
- ✓ Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and gardens, and the planting of trees.
- ✓ Protection of important buildings and historic assets such as archaeological remains.
- ✓ Promotion of renewable energy projects, such as solar energy and wind turbines.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot:

- ✗ Conflict with the strategic policies in the Local Plan (as mentioned earlier)
- ✗ Be used to prevent development that is included in the Local Plan
- ✗ Be prepared by a body other than a parish or town council or a neighbourhood forum.

So are you ready ?

YES - Let's do it now ???

NO - Let's wait ???

Tell us what you think.

Email us at ourplan@northweald-pc.gov.uk

tweet [@northwealdpc](https://twitter.com/northwealdpc)

text [077377 36365](tel:07737736365)



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 www.northweald-pc.gov.uk  [north_weald_pc](https://www.instagram.com/north_weald_pc)



If you would like to discuss this further, or if you would like to be involved in the Neighbourhood Planning process, please contact your Parish Council at clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk, or contact us on 01992 523825.

Cllr Cyril Hawkins, Chairman, North Weald Bassett Parish Council.